4. Quarterly Block Allocation Scheme for repair of ships has been dispensed with entirely and Reserve Bank of India now releases foreign exchange for ship repair|dry docking and spares for imported capital goods without any value limit.

5. Freight charges on account of movement of fertilizer and petroleum products are now allowed *to* be paid in convertible currency on par with other commodities.

6. Certain Sections of Merchant Shipping Act were considered by foreign tenders as impediments to the enforcement of the rights of 'lenders in case of loan defaults and consequent requirement of foreclosure of the mortgage. These sections have now been amenaed, to facilitate Inditn Shipping Companies to raise externa] commercial borrowing for ship acquisition from abroad.

7. Shipping Corporation of India has acquired three cellular container vessels in December, 1993 and January, 1994.

Movement of Goverment and Public Sector Cargoes

2535. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be* pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of foreign flag vessels in moving cargo for transohart which is responsible for moving Government and Public Sector cargoes, has been increasing:

(b) whether the Indian shipping companies were permitted for chartering out Indian .flag Vessels without! obtaining permission from the Director General of Shipping; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to move the Government and Public Sector cargoes without facing difficulty in getting vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANS^ PORT (SHRI JAGDESH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir. The share of foreign flag vessels in the carriage of Government and Public Sector cargoes through. Trans-chart during the last five calendar years has been as under:—

1989	41.46%
1990	33.58%
1991	38.54%
1992	45.24%
1993	41.17%

(b) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to increase the Indian tonnage and share of Indian ships, a number of steps have been taken. These include automatic approval for (a) acquisition of ships from Indian shipyards, (b) replacement tonnage, (c) acpuisition of vessels by Ship Owning Companies except Crude tankers and OSVs, (d) sale of ships and retention of sale proceed to utilise for fresh acquisition, acquisition: of vessels through bare-boat charter-cum demise ,amendment in the Merchant Shipping act to facilitate financing of ship acquisition etc.

संसद सदस्यों द्वारा अन्त भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय को भेजे गये पत्रों का निपटारा

2536. **श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल :** क्या अन्त भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) संसद सदस्यों द्वारा उनके मंत्रालय को 1 अप्रैल, 1990 से 31 मार्च 1993 तक कितने पत्र लिखे गए और उनका वर्षवार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) उनमें से कितने पत्रों की प्राप्ति स्वीकृति भेजी गयी;

(ग) कितने पत्रों के अंतिम उत्तर भेजे गए; और

(घ) भेजे गए इन अंतिम पत्रों में से कितने पत्रों के उत्तर नकारात्मक और कितने के सकारात्मक थे ?

जल भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाइटलर) : (क) से (ग) एक विवरण संलग्न है ।

(घ) इन पत्रों का उत्तर तथ्यात्मक सूचना के आधार पर तथा मौजूदा नीति, नियमों और विनियमों के अनुरूप दिया गया था । इनका संबंध सामान्यतया एक से अधिक मामलों के साथ था । इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए इनके उत्तरों को नकारात्मक/सकारात्मक वर्गों में वर्गीकृत करना कठिन है । जल भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय में 1 अप्रैल, 1990 से 31 मार्च, 1993 तक (वर्ष-वार) की अवधि में संसद सदस्यों से प्राप्त पत्रों का विवरण ।

वर्ष	संसद सदस्यों से प्राप्त पत्रों की संख्या	उन पत्रों की संख्या जिनकी पावती भेजी गयी ।	उन पत्रों की संख्य जिनका अंतिम उत्तरा भेजा गया ।
1-4-90 से 31-3-91 तक	1091	1085	1077
1-4-91 से 31-3-92 तक	671	666	659
1-4-92 से 31-3-93 तक	914	910	865

Construction of bye pass roads in Gujarat

2537. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SO-ANKI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Bye-pass roads proposed to be constructed and the road presently under construction in Gujarat as on date;

(b) what is the amount earmarked for this purpose; and

(c) what is the likely date of commencement and completion of the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDLSH TYTLER): (a) Central Government is essentially respon-sible for development and maintenance of National Highways including bypasses thereon and all roads, other than National Highways, are the responsibility of State Government Bypasses at Kutoyano and at Dhoraji on National Highway No. 8B are under construction as on date.

(b) Funds are allocated by the Ministry for development works on all National Highways in the State as a whole and not for individual works.

(c) Byepasses at Kutiyana and Dhoraji are targetted for completion by the end of March. 1994 and December, 1994, respectively.

Maintenance of National Highways

2538. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the upkeep and maintenance of National Highways is entrusted to concerned State Goveminenfr,